

EDITORIAL.

THE MEETING of the American Association for the Advancement of Science next month promises to be an important one for botanists. It will be remembered that this is to be the first assembling of the new section of botany which was established at the Rochester meeting. In order to justify the division of the section of biology, if for no better reason, it behooves botanists not only to attend in numbers, but to prepare papers concerning their late researches to be read at the meeting. The committee which was appointed to secure some papers which should give a comprehensive view of the condition of the science of botany in this country, especially for the benefit of those who do not yet realize its development, has been active, and as a result are able to announce a number of papers from some of the foremost botanists. Each one selected by the committee to treat his own particular field is able to speak with authority.

THERE WILL come before the section and the Botanical Club, also, several reports of important committees, such as the committee on the formation of an American Botanical Society, and the committee on revision of the nomenclature of spermatophytes. There will also be some new business for the botanists to take hold of, the most pressing of which is the consideration of some method of reporting and publishing a periodical index to American botanical literature.

IMMEDIATELY at the close of the general meeting comes the assembling of the botanical congress, the first session occurring on August 23d. It is expected that a considerable number of representatives of foreign societies will be present at this time and that the report of the international committee on nomenclature will be presented. It is to be hoped also that some steps will be taken to coöperate with the international committee on the revision of biological nomenclature (terminology) in order to secure the betterment of our present confused terminology which every teacher must feel as an "old-man-of-the-sea" about his neck when he endeavors to give his students an idea of homologies in plants.

ALTOGETHER there is an outlook for the science of botany at the present time which is full of encouragement, and an amount of work to be done for its further advancement which is enough to kindle the ardor of every man who has a gram-meter of energy or a spark of zeal. In no better way can this be shown at present than by making arrangements to attend the Madison meetings. The place is a beautiful summer resort, and the most ample accommodations are being made for the comfort and entertainment of those who attend.¹

¹Any one desiring information about railway and hotel rates, etc., can obtain it by addressing Prof. C. R. Barnes, Local Sec'y A. A. A. S., Madison, Wis.

THE REPORT of the success of the A. A. A. S. committee in securing a table for investigators at the Naples Zoological Station will be found on p. 283. As botanists were asked to coöperate in this endeavor, and did so coöperate, and as the Station makes generous provision for the study of marine and littoral plants, and as it is quite possible that a botanist may make application for the use of this table, it would have been a gracious, not to say a just, thing to recognize botanists in the formation of the advisory committee, which is at present composed entirely of zoologists.

Probably Secretary Langley was deceived by his knowledge of the English language into thinking that the American Morphological Society was not composed wholly of *animal* morphologists, and the Association of American Anatomists entirely of *animal* anatomists.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

Minor Notices.

In a monograph illustrated by two carefully prepared plates with forty-two figures, Dr. J. W. Moll publishes his results of a critical and exhaustive study on the karyokinesis of *Spirogyra*, together with a brief outline of the method used.¹ The latter is a most commendable feature, as no work of this kind can be thoroughly understood without some knowledge of the method pursued.

In the introduction, the author gives a comparative *résumé* of the results of several eminent observers upon the details in question.

Certain details in method are unique, and cannot be wholly without interest. Short pieces of *Spirogyra* threads are fixed in Flemming's mixture, and after thorough washing and bringing into 90 per cent. alcohol by means of a dialyser, they are imbedded in small bits of celloidin in order to facilitate handling and correct orientation. The bits of celloidin with the imbedded threads, are now stained with gentian violet, imbedded in paraffin and sectioned on a microtome.

The author deals at some length with the finer details of structure of the nucleolus and plasm, which, by this method, are brought out with great clearness. The view, held by several authors, that the nucleolus furnishes the chromatic substance, is supported. After a

¹MOLL, J. W.:—Observations on karyokinesis in *Spirogyra*. Sep. from Verh. d. k. Akad. v. Wetensch. te Amsterdam. Sect. II, 1. no. 9 (repaged).
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